

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 00831 012317Z

13

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAM-01 OMB-01 IO-14 DRC-01 AID-20 /129 W

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R 010925Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2332

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 831

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT KS

SUBJ: EMERGENCY COURT MARTIAL CASES

REF: A. SEOUL 171 B. SEOUL 254 C. SEOUL 266 D. SEOUL 335

1. EMERGENCY COURT MARTIAL FEB 2 SENTENCED CHANG CHUN-HA AND PAEK KI-WAN EACH TO 15 YEARS AT HARD LABOR PLUS 15 YEARS LOSS OF CIVIL RIGHTS. CHARGE WAS VIOLATING EMERGENCY MEASURE NO. 1 PROVISIONS BANNING ACTS AGAINST YUSHIN CONSTITUTION AND PUBLICITY FOR SUCH ACTS. COURT-MARTIAL SPOKESMAN ISSUED STATEMENT JUSTIFYING VERDICT ON GROUNDS THAT CHANG AND PAEK ENDANGERED NATIONAL SECURITY BY DIVIDING PUBLIC OPINION AND CREATING SOCIAL UNREST CONDITIONS OF THREAT FROM NORTH AND CHANGING INTERNATIONAL SITUATION.

2. TRIAL SESSIONS WERE HELD JAN 31 AND FEB 1. LIMITED NUMBER OF REPORTERS WERE PRESENT FOR BOTH SESSIONS, BUT NEWS STORIES WERE CONFINED TO STATEMENTS OF COURT-MARTIAL SPOKESMAN. JAN 31 STATEMENT DISCLOSED ONLY THAT PROSECUTION HAD DEMANDED 15-YEAR SENTENCE WITH 15-YEAR LOSS OF CIVIL RIGHTS.

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PAGE 02 SEOUL 00831 012317Z

3. ACCORDING TO ONE REPORTER SOURCE WHO ATTENDED JAN

31 COURT-MARTIAL SESSION, PROSECUTION CASE INCLUDED
REFERENCE TO
CHANG CHUN-HA'S MEETINGS WITH ELIZABETH
POND OF CSM, FOX BUTTERFIELD OF NYT, AND EMBOFF
(REFTELS). SOURCE SAID CHANG OPENLY ADMITTED ACTIONS
ON WHICH GOVT BASED ITS CASE.

4. COMMENT: SINCE PRESS ONLY AUTHORIZED TO PRINT
COURT-MARTIAL STATEMENT WE DO NOT EXPECT ANY PRESS QUERIES RE
CHANG'S LUNCHEON WITH EMBOFF. HOWEVER, IF MATTER IS
RAISED WILL STATE SIMPLY THAT LUNCHEON WAS SCHEDULED
BEFORE PROCLAMATION OF EMERGENCY MEASURES AND WAS
PART OF NORMAL PATTERN OF EMBASSY CONTRACTS WITH
POLITICAL FIGURES AND GOVT OFFICIALS.
HABIB

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, NATIONAL SECURITY, FOREIGN RELATIONS, CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS, ARRESTS, EMERGENCY PLANNING, COURTS MARTIAL, SOCIAL RECEPTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 FEB 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974SEOUL00831
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740262/aaaacfqd.tel
Line Count: 76
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A. SEOUL 171 B. SEOUL 254 C. SEOUL 2, 66 D. SEOUL 335
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 JUL 2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <30 DEC 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EMERGENCY COURT MARTIAL CASES
TAGS: PINT, KS, (CHANG CHUN-HA), (POND, ELIZABETH), (PAEK KI-WAN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005